

**What is claimed is:**

- 1 1. An apparatus adapted to make an electrical connection with  
2 a first electronic unit having a first edge portion and first  
3 terminals disposed along said first edge portion, said  
4 apparatus comprising:  
5 a first supporting member; and  
6 a first connector supported by said first supporting  
7 member, said first connector having a body elongated in a  
8 longitudinal direction and second terminals disposed along said  
9 longitudinal direction, wherein  
10 said first connector is adapted to slidably guide said  
11 first edge portion of said first electronic unit along said  
12 longitudinal direction to a first fully inserted position such  
13 that each one of said first terminals faces respective one of  
14 said second terminals.
- 1 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first  
2 connector includes a first lock mechanism locking said first  
3 edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully  
4 inserted position and connecting said first terminals and said  
5 second terminals electrically.
- 1 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said supporting  
2 member includes a circuit board.

1 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a direction of  
2 a cooling airflow is substantially parallel to said  
3 longitudinal direction of said first connector.

1 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a  
2 housing having a front portion, a rear portion and an front  
3 opening in said front portion, wherein

4 said first supporting member and said first connector are  
5 arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of  
6 said housing.

1 6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said  
2 longitudinal direction of said first connector is substantially  
3 parallel to a direction from said front portion to said rear  
4 portion of said housing.

1 7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said housing  
2 further has a fan providing a cooling airflow in a direction  
3 from said front portion to said rear portion of said housing.

1 8. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said first  
2 supporting member is substantially perpendicular to said front  
3 portion of said housing.

1 9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
2 said first electronic unit further has a second edge  
3 portion substantially parallel and opposite to said first edge

4 portion and forth terminals disposed along said second edge  
5 portion,

6 said apparatus further includes a second supporting member  
7 and a second connector;

8 said second connector has a body elongated in a  
9 longitudinal direction and third terminals disposed along said  
10 longitudinal direction of said second connector,

11 said second connector is supported by said second  
12 supporting member and arranged substantially parallel and  
13 opposite to said first connector, and

14 said second connector is adapted to slidably guide said  
15 second edge portion of said first electronic unit along said  
16 longitudinal direction of said second connector to said first  
17 fully inserted position such that each one of said third  
18 terminals faces respective one of said forth terminals.

1 10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said first  
2 connector includes a first lock mechanism locking said first  
3 edge portion of said first electronic unit at said first fully  
4 inserted position and connecting said first terminals and said  
5 second terminals electrically, and

6 said second connector includes a second lock mechanism  
7 locking said second edge portion of said first electronic unit  
8 at said first fully inserted position and connecting said third  
9 terminals and said forth terminals electrically.

1 11. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein each of said  
2 first supporting member and said second supporting member  
3 includes a circuit board.

1 12. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a direction  
2 of a cooling airflow is substantially parallel to said  
3 longitudinal direction of said first connector.

1 13. The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a  
2 housing having a front portion, a rear portion and a front  
3 opening in said front portion, wherein  
4 said first supporting member, said second supporting  
5 member, said first connector and said second connector are  
6 arranged between said front portion and said rear portion of  
7 said housing.

1 14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said  
2 longitudinal direction of said first connector is substantially  
3 parallel to a direction from said front portion to said rear  
4 portion of said housing.

1 15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said housing  
2 further has a fan providing a cooling airflow in a direction  
3 from said front portion to said rear portion.

1 16. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first  
2 and second supporting members are substantially perpendicular  
3 to said front portion of said housing.

1 17. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said first  
2 supporting member and said second supporting member are adapted  
3 to be electrically connected through said first electronic  
4 unit.

1 18. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said first and  
2 second supporting members are parallel to each other.

1 19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said first  
2 and second connectors are adapted to support said first  
3 electronic unit such that said first electronic unit is  
4 substantially perpendicular to said first and second supporting  
5 members.

1 20. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
2 said apparatus is further adapted to make an electrical  
3 connection with a second electronic unit having a third edge  
4 portion and fifth terminals disposed along said third edge  
5 portion,

6 said apparatus further comprises a third connector  
7 supported by said first supporting member;

8        said third connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal  
9        direction and sixth terminals disposed along said longitudinal  
10       direction of said third connector,

11       said third connector is adapted to slidably guide said  
12       third edge portion of said second electronic unit along said  
13       longitudinal direction of said third connector to a second fully  
14       inserted position such that each one of said fifth terminals  
15       faces respective one of said sixth terminals,

16       said first electronic unit is slidably inserted into said  
17       first connector in a first direction along said longitudinal  
18       direction of said first connector, and

19       said second electronic unit is slidably inserted into said  
20       third connector in a second direction substantially opposite  
21       to said first direction.

1       21. The apparatus according to claim 20,

2       said third connector is arranged substantially parallel  
3       to said first connector.

1       22. The apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising  
2       a housing having a front portion, a rear portion, a front opening  
3       on said front portion and a rear opening on said rear portion,  
4       wherein

5       said first supporting member, said first connector and  
6       said third connector are arranged between said front portion  
7       and said rear portion of said housing.

1 23. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

2 said apparatus is further adapted to make an electrical  
3 connection with a second electronic unit having a third edge  
4 portion and fifth terminals disposed along said third edge  
5 portion,

6 said apparatus further comprises a third connector,

7 said third connector has a body elongated in a longitudinal  
8 direction and sixth terminals disposed along said longitudinal  
9 direction of said third connector,

10 said third connector is supported by said first supporting  
11 members,

12 said third connector is adapted to slidably guide a third  
13 edge portion of said second electronic unit along said  
14 longitudinal direction of said third connector to a second fully  
15 inserted position such that each one of said fifth terminals  
16 faces respective one of said sixth terminals, and

17 said first electronic unit is slidably inserted into said  
18 first and second connectors in a first direction along said  
19 longitudinal direction of said first connector, and

20 said second electronic unit is slidably inserted into said  
21 third connector in a second direction substantially opposite  
22 to said first direction.

1 24. The apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising  
2 a housing having a front portion, a rear portion, a front opening  
3 in said front portion and a rear opening in said rear portion,  
4 wherein

5        said first and second supporting members and said first,  
6        second and third connectors are arranged between said front  
7        portion and said rear portion of said housing.

1        25. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said first  
2        and second supporting members are parallel to each other, and  
3        said third connector is arranged substantially parallel to said  
4        first connector.

1        26. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:  
2        said first electronic unit connected to said first  
3        connector.